

Master Hunter Orientation 2018



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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

MASTER HUNTER CODE OF ETHICS

As a master hunter, I am a steward of the future of hunting. I pledge to act in accordance with the highest ethical standards. I will display proper respect for game, landowners, other hunters, the public, all fish and wildlife laws. I pledge to be a conscientious, committed hunter who cares about the future of hunting. I will assume a leadership role among my peers and will do so by exhibiting exemplary conduct in the field. As a Master Hunter, I shall play a key role in improving relationships with all landowners, thus ensuring continued hunter access to private and public lands. I pledge to continue to expand my knowledge of wildlife and natural resource management practices and understand the role I play in these practices.

I pledge to be a “Steward of the hunt.”

Agenda

- Introductions
- Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP)
History
- MHPP Mission and background
 - Statutes and rules
 - Commission Policy
 - Wildlife Policy
- MHPP Requirements
- Certification
 - Recertification requirements

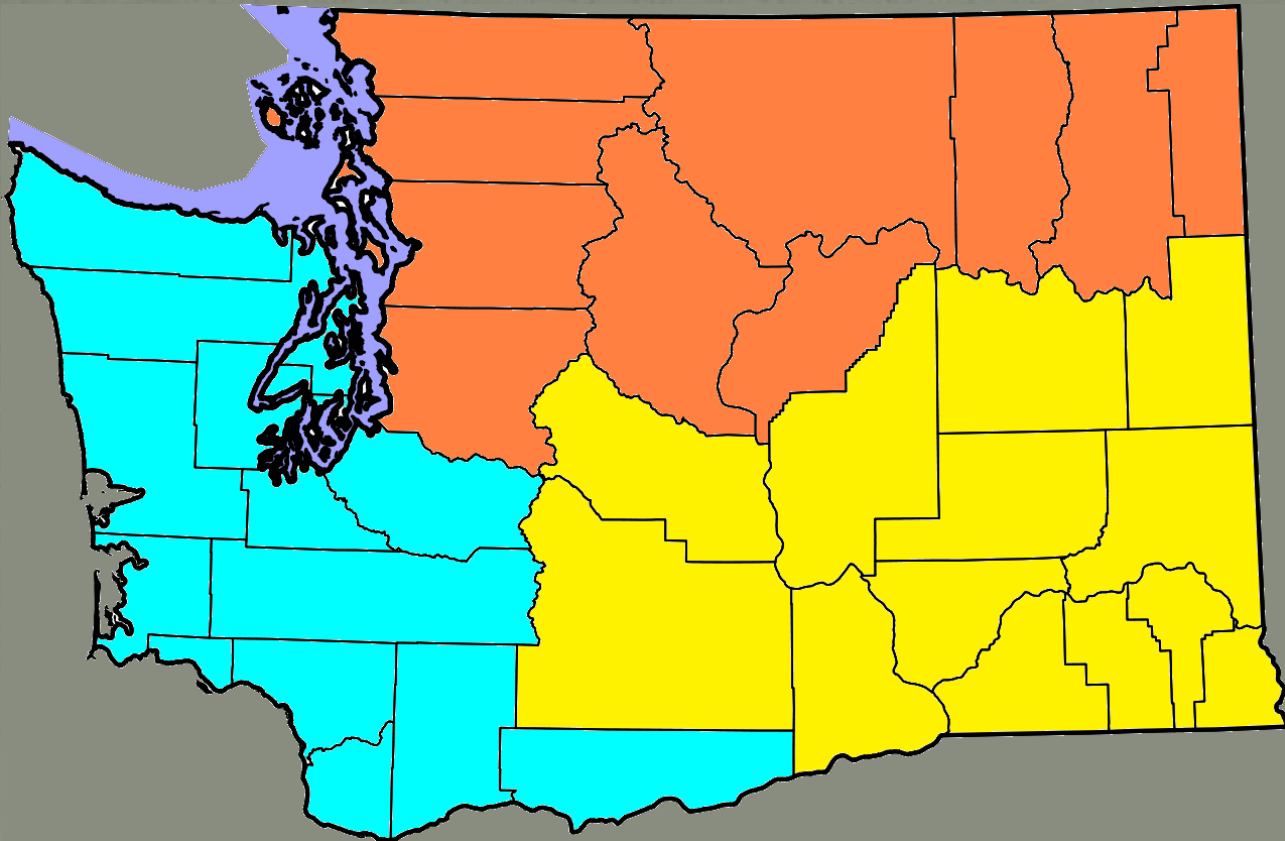
Agenda Continued

- ❑ Volunteer opportunities
- ❑ Community Event Registration & Volunteer Information System (CERVIS)
- ❑ MHPP Newsletter
- ❑ Expectations of MHs
- ❑ Landowner contacts
- ❑ Wildlife conflict information
- ❑ Master Hunter Advisory Group (MHAG)
- ❑ Ethical and Legal issues

WDFW Contacts for MHs

- **Tracy Loveless**
 - Customer Service, Olympia
 - (360) 902-8412, tracy.loveless@dfw.wa.gov
- **Kris Thorson**
 - MHPP Liaison, Olympia
 - (360) 902-8410, kristopher.thorson@dfw.wa.gov
- **Aaron Garcia**
 - Region 3 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Yakima
 - (509)575-2740 Ext 308, aaron.garcia@dfw.wa.gov
- **Steve Dazey**
 - Region 4 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Mill Creek
 - (425) 775-1311 Ext 106, steven.dazey@dfw.wa.gov
- **Bill Montgomery**
 - Region 6 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Olympia
 - (360) 902-8413, william.montgomery@dfw.wa.gov

Volunteer Coordinators



- Steve Dazey (425-775-1311 Ext 106)
- Aaron Garcia (509-575-2740 Ext 308)
- Bill Montgomery (360-902-8413)

MHPP History

- 1992: Advanced Hunter Education program created
- Initial success, improvements identified
- Dec 2007 – Commission policy to develop the MH program
- 2008 – Commission adopted rules
- 2009 – Legislative authority passes
- 2013 – Hunter Education moves to Wildlife Program and drafts Wildlife Policy statement

MHPP Mission

- Designed to:
 - Promote safe, ethical, responsible, and legal hunting
 - Promote support in the general public for hunting
 - Promote the highest standards of hunting
 - Enhance landowner-sportsman relations
 - Engage applicants and participants in volunteer conservation projects that benefit wildlife and habitat, and promote hunting access on private lands
 - Develop a corps of MH that can address sensitive wildlife depredation issues

MHPP Statutes and Rules

- RCW 77.15.760 – Suspension of a master hunter permit – Appeal hearing
- RCW 77.32.570 – Master hunter permit program – Fee
- WAC 220-412-030 – Master hunter permit program

Commission Policy, Dec 2007

- MHs are a tool employed by WDFW to help resolve certain human/wildlife conflicts
- MH certification is a privilege, not a right
- Violations of any Department regulations will not be tolerated
- MHs are role models for the rest of the hunting community
- Act as ambassadors for the Department

Wildlife Program Policy

- Wildlife Program Policy builds on commission policy
- MHs are “Stewards of the Hunt” and give back to the wildlife resource
- Wildlife Program staff work to:
 - I.D. meaningful MH volunteer opportunities that promote conservation and address priority needs of the agency
 - Coordinate and manage MH volunteer efforts

Wildlife Program Policy Continued

- Focus areas for volunteer projects:
 - Increase hunter access to private lands
 - Increase hunter recruitment and retention
 - Protect and enhance important habitat
 - Participation in citizen science/wildlife data collection
 - Serve as an administrative or coordination role for a volunteer network

New Applicant Requirements

- Attend a Crime Observation Reporting Training (CORT) class
- Shooting proficiency
- Minimum of 20 hours of approved wildlife conservation work
- Pass a Background check
- Pass 100 question test
- Sign the Master Hunter Code of Ethics Agreement

Helpful hints to MH completion

- Take a CORT class ASAP
 - If you can't find a class near you, contact the regional Eyes In The Woods CORT training coordinator
- Study all of the materials for the test
 - You have two chances to pass
 - Minimum of 7 days between test retakes
- Start working on volunteer service early
 - Some applicants wait too long and do not complete the required hours

Certification

- Certified for five (5) years
- Congratulations letter, patch, and MH card will be sent to you
- After certification MH can put in for MH special permits and hunt general season MH only hunts

Re-Certification

- Can apply for recertification up to six (6) months before expiration of MH permit
- Must have completed 40+ hours of volunteer service over past five (5) years
- Pass a background check for RCW77.15 violations in last five (5) years

Volunteer Opportunities

- CERVIS system, MH Newsletter, and Volunteer conservation website helps pinpoint WDFW needs
- WDFW projects are always a priority
- Make sure to show up to commitments
 - If unable to make it, contact the volunteer supervisor.
- MH cannot volunteer on their own property

CERVIS


- Online Volunteer Portal
 - Lists available projects
 - Tracks service hours
- Can be used instead of paper forms for MH service hours
- Use is encouraged and will become more common in the near future
- See the HOW TO USE IT – Handout

Volunteer Opportunities	<h2>Volunteer Opportunities</h2> <p>The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife welcomes volunteers who want to assist in activities that benefit fish, wildlife and habitat.</p> <p>A variety of volunteer opportunities are available, including projects on state wildlife areas, water access sites, furthering conservation activities and hunter education through the Master Hunter program, and local projects that benefit salmon recovery through Regional Fishery Enhancement Groups (RFEES).</p> <p>Beginning in 2012, WDFW implemented an on-line volunteer management system to make it easier for volunteers to learn about volunteer opportunities and to participate in them. Known as CERVIS (Community Event Registration & Volunteer Information System), this system tracks projects and volunteer hours.</p> <p>First, potential volunteers must register using a simple on-line form; then review the volunteer opportunities that are available.</p>
Volunteer Registration and Access	
Volunteer Training, and Fence Construction	
Water Access Program	
Master Hunter Program	
Wildlife Series and Hunt Groups	
Resource Committees	
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Volunteer Program	
Redmond Program Manager redmond@dfw.wa.gov 509-902-8303	
Admin Login	


FOR VOLUNTEERS...

- Orientation for New Volunteers
- How to Register
- How to Log Service Hours

Receive a complimentary Discover Pass



Learn more >>



Click here!

[Register to Volunteer](#) [Volunteer Login](#)

Register as a volunteer today! **CERVIS Login**

WDFW Volunteer Program Event Listing & Registration

MHPP Newsletter

- Bi-monthly newsletter with WDFW news as well as volunteer projects
- Includes MHPP success stories as well as cautionary tales
- Has contact information for MHPP staff as well as Wildlife Program staff who may need volunteers

Expectations of MHs

- Represent themselves, our hunting heritage, WDFW policies and decisions, and the MHPP with the utmost professionalism
- Follow all state and local laws pertaining to hunting, use of firearms, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities

Expectations of MHs (cont'd)

- Have hunting equipment sighted in prior to hunting and be **EXTREMELY** proficient in its use
- Be knowledgeable of animal anatomy and correct shot placement for a humane harvest
- Be able to field dress any harvested animal effectively

Expectations of MHs (cont'd)

- Be an ambassador of safe, ethical, responsible, and legal hunting
- Behave as role models of ethical hunting
- Give back to the resource through volunteer work and promote safe and ethical hunting

Expectations of MHs (cont'd)

- Assist the Department in resolving certain human/wildlife conflict situations
- Be willing to help create good will between WDFW and landowners by volunteering
- Mentor hunters who may be new to hunting or a particular species

Expectations of MHs (cont'd)

- Improve the image of Master Hunters through their attitudes and actions
- Self-report any fish and wildlife violations
- Maintain correct contact information with WDFW
- Follow through when signed up to volunteer

Wildlife Conflict and Damage Control Activities



**WDFW is Responsible For Managing
Wildlife Damage to Crops on Private Land**

The Master Hunter Permit Program will not function as intended if it doesn't work for the landowner.

WDFW Conflict Management Goals

- Minimize damage caused by wildlife
- Move wildlife off private property
- Modify the behavior of wildlife causing damage

Crop Damage



Irrigation damage



Fence Damage



Conflict Management Challenges

- Landowner expectations
- Wildlife behavior
- Weather patterns
- General public perceptions

Strategies to Meet Conflict Goals

- Use of MH is one method to help prevent damage caused by wildlife to private and public lands
- If using MH is not the appropriate method, conflict staff can use other tools to address damage

Strategies to Meet Conflict Goals

- MH general seasons
- Second tag MH special permits
- Second tag for Elk Area 3911 to encourage early season hunting pressure and harvest
- Landowner permits
- Hazing

Landowner Permits

- Damage Prevention Permits
 - Issued to landowner
 - Landowner can harvest or select another licensed hunter
 - Landowner may charge access fees
- Kill Permit
 - Only for landowner and immediate family

Roles for MH General Seasons

- Game Division
 - Presents rules to the Commission for setting general hunting seasons
 - May post activity updates to the website to assist in control activities

Roles for MH General Seasons

- Landowners
 - May allow access to their property if approached in advance. Some welcome MHs. Volunteer projects may help MHs make contacts.
 - ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ALLOW ACCESS. Trespassing is a big problem in some MH general seasons.

Roles for MH General Seasons

- Master Hunter
 - Scout and know the area prior to season
 - Make efforts to meet with landowners for access
 - Take safe, effective shots that will result in a quick and humane harvest. The property next door may not let you recover a harvested animal
 - Be self-sufficient in recovery of animal
 - Be proficient with chosen hunting equipment and field dressing

Roles for MH General Seasons

- Master Hunter continued
 - Plan your hunt activities with these goals in mind:
 - Move animals away from agricultural areas into wildlife area/winter grounds
 - Limit damage to fencing
 - Improve the image of MHs
 - Be aware that you are being watched by the public
 - Keep to your highest ethical standards

Helpful Hints



- ID property owners through county assessor's web page
- Contact landowners well in advance of the season to secure access
- Pursue volunteer opportunities through WDFW Coordinators

REMEMBER

- Adhere to landowner's directions and rules
- Landowners are not required to allow access



Landowner Contacts

- Dress appropriately when contacting landowners
 - No derogatory terms or messages
- Be professional
- Be courteous
- Thank them for their time

Roles for MH Special Permits

- Wildlife Conflict Specialist
 - Monitor damage caused by wildlife and develop a plan to address
 - Work with landowners
 - Deploy MHs drawn in the special permit drawings to remove wildlife causing damage
 - Direct activities of volunteer hunt coordinator (if used)

Roles for MH Special Permits

- Landowner
 - Allows MH to participate in removal of an animal on their property
 - Works with the Conflict Specialist to specify areas, notes safety concerns
 - Controls access – landowners can choose whom they want on their property

Roles for MH Special Permits

- Volunteer Hunt Coordinator
 - Follows the direction from the Conflict Specialist
 - Calls the MH on the list as directed by Conflict Specialist
 - Arranges the hunt per the directions of the Conflict Specialist

Roles for MH Special Permits

- Master hunter
 - Must follow the directions of the Conflict Specialist, Hunt Coordinator, and landowner
 - Any failure to follow directions may result in removal from the property
 - Be able to the best of your abilities to respond to a deployment quickly
 - Preemptively talk to employer and family about the possibility of deployment

Roles for MH Special Permits

- Master hunter continued
 - Must be EXTREMELY proficient in the hunting equipment required for the hunt
 - Must be prepared to take care of the animal harvested, from field to freezer
Do not expect the hunt coordinator, landowner, or WDFW staff to provide assistance
 - Don't contact Conflict Specialist about position on list

Expectations of MH on damage removal

- Represent hunters with the utmost professionalism
- Understand damage removal hunts are designed to move animals from areas of low tolerance to areas of high tolerance
- Follow all state and local laws pertaining to hunting and use of firearms

Expectations of MH on damage removal (cont'd)

- Follow all conditions set forth by the Wildlife Conflict Specialist (WCS), Hunt Coordinator (HC), or landowner
- Strictly adhere to any mandated shooting lanes or other restrictions indicated by the WCS, HC, or landowner
 - Safety always takes priority over the harvesting of any animal

Expectations of MH on damage removal (cont'd)

- Refrain from contacting WDFW personnel regarding the permit list and the Master Hunter's status on the list
- Be at the property within the deployment timeline
- Provide high hunting effort, over several days, and possibly under difficult conditions

Expectations of MH on damage removal (cont'd)

- Vehicle access to the property may be severely restricted or prohibited
- Be **EXTREMELY** proficient in the use of the hunting equipment required
- Pass on hunts for which they are not qualified
- Be able to field dress any harvested animal efficiently

Expectations of MH on damage removal (cont'd)

- Have all hunting equipment sighted in for hunting prior to arrival at the hunt location
- Be knowledgeable of animal anatomy for removal and the correct shot placement for a quick and humane harvest

Damage Permit Level Changes

- 2017 permit levels lower than in 2016
- Permit levels decreased due to
 - WDFW effort to “right size” the number of permits relative to need
 - Convey more realistic expectations to MHs

Special Hunt Permit Points

- If MHs don't have an opportunity on a hunt coordinator hunt, they will have their points restored
- An opportunity is considered:
 - Hunter declines offered non-emergency hunt
 - Two messages not returned by hunter in contact time frame
 - Inability to contact MH using info in WILD system

Master Hunter Advisory Group

Role

- Represents MHs statewide
- Consists of MHs from each Region
- Advises WDFW on issues and opportunities affecting MH and MHPP
- Helps WDFW conduct MH meetings targeting communities and stakeholders to help resolve local issues and concerns

Master Hunter Advisory Group

Mission Statement

- Develop a corps of hunters dedicated to preserving the heritage of hunting by giving back to the sport, displaying the highest standards of conduct, and working to conserve wildlife habitat and hunting opportunity.

MHAG Strategic Plan

- Developed by WDFW and MHAG subgroup
- Adopted by MHAG
- Focus areas:
 - Youth Hunts
 - Education and training for new and existing hunters
 - Improving the image of MHs and the MHPP

MHAG Strategic Plan

- Near-term Priorities:
 - Use MH skills and contacts to develop opportunities for youth where there is a good chance of success
 - Utilize MHs at public events like clinics, sports shows, seminars, etc.
 - Increase visibility of MHPP benefits and accomplishments to the public

MHAG Strategic Plan

- First Hunt Foundation
 - WDFW has decided to partner with First Hunt Foundation
 - If you would like to be a mentor for this organization, see their website
 - <http://www.firsthuntfoundation.com/home-page.html>

Ethical (*and Legal*) Issues

- MHs are a very visible representation of the hunting community
- Landowners have experienced issues with Master Hunters, such as expecting access to private land, trespassing to hunt or retrieve down game, littering, gates not left as found, etc.
- The public watches and judges all Master Hunters by the actions they see, which is why you must follow all the highest ethical standards

“Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching - even when doing the wrong thing is legal.”

— *Aldo Leopold*

“The Father of Wildlife Management”

Violations

- WDFW must:
 - Suspend a Master Hunter who pays the fine or is found guilty of an infraction of RCW 77.15 for two years
 - Suspend a Master Hunter who is found guilty of a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony of RCW 77.15 for life

Violations

- Identified on license that they are a Master Hunter
 - Right under their birthdate MH Expires:
- If cited or charged, MHPP has to take action
- Ensure you are legally, safely, and ethically hunting and fishing
 - If it is legal but might be seen as unsafe or unethical, stay clear

Violation Examples

- Fishing violations
 - Barbed hooks
 - Undersize fish
 - Over limit
 - Closed area

Violation Examples

- Hunting violations
 - Wrong sex
 - Antler restrictions
 - Wastage
 - Closed season

Violation Examples

- Disobeying any other Department Rule
 - Not obeying signs
 - Parking infractions
 - Driving on closed lands

Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending.
If you would like to receive emails about volunteer opportunities, please make sure you have signed in and put a correct email address on the sign in sheet.